

Substance Abuse Issues Group Report to the Governor's Coordinating Council

Substance Abuse is one the three critical issues identified by the Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children.

The Substance Abuse Issues Group elected to review the work of the Idaho Society for the Protection of At-Risk Children (ISPARC), an organization that has identified and is complimentary to the priorities of the Governor's Coordinating Council, including Priority 2 - Data Collection and Utilization.

The Substance Abuse Issues Group suggests that the Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children forward to the Governor's Office a recommendation to elicit funding for:

- **A one-time study to determine the prevalence of substance use among mothers delivering newborns in specific regions in Idaho. The project would be administered by ISPARC in partnership with the Idaho State Perinatal Project, Idaho State University College of Pharmacy, and the Boise State University Center for Health Policy**

Organizational History

The Mission of ISPARC is to:

- Reduce the number of infants born exposed to drugs or alcohol in Idaho.
- Promote the prevention, education, and treatment of families affected by substance abuse to resolve safety and permanency issues.

In 1999, the Idaho Society for the Protection of At-Risk Children was formed to attempt to find solutions to the problems of maternal substance abuse. This public-private partnership is a collaboration that includes representatives from all facets of the child protection and support community: law enforcement, child protective services, members of the judiciary and legislature, medicine, mental health and substance abuse personnel. Recognizing the lack of systems in Idaho to prevent and treat substance abusing parents and their children, ISPARC has begun an intensive program which to date has included:

- An Idaho Maternal Substance Abuse Round Table - Nov 2000
- A Maternal Substance Abuse Needs Assessment
- A Maternal Substance Abuse Summit - May 2001

Key Issues and Considerations

- Illicit drug use during pregnancy is a major social and costly health problem.
- Drug use by pregnant women results in an increased incidence of: stillbirth, maternal hemorrhage, prematurity, low birth weight, and risk of Hepatitis B and AIDS.
- 10% of the 3.8 million U.S. babies born each year are estimated to be affected by perinatal drug abuse.
- ISPARC's Maternal Needs Assessment Survey found that 13,200 Idaho women of child bearing age reported use of an illicit substance during the previous year.
- ISPARC's Maternal Needs Assessment Survey found that 26,300 Idaho women of childbearing age reported binge drinking (5 or more drinks) of alcohol one or more times in the previous month.
- No study has ever documented the prevalence of maternal substance abuse in Idaho.
- Substance abusing mothers are particularly receptive to intervention and treatment during the perinatal period.
- Substance abuse is one of the top two problems presented by families reported for child abuse.
- There are virtually no detoxification or treatment programs for pregnant women.
- Newborn hospital care for affected infants and the additional costs for long-term care of children and families affected by substance abuse can be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars in cost to society.

Recommended Program

ISPARC is requesting \$260,000 to fund a one-time study to determine the prevalence of substance use, including tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, among mothers delivering newborns in eight urban counties of Idaho. The primary goal of this study is to determine by analysis of the newborn infant stool (meconium) the incidence of illicit usage of amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates and benzodiazepines by pregnant women. Other data, including the prenatal use of alcohol and tobacco will be collected. Approximately 3000 newborns delivered at eleven urban hospitals will be randomly tested.

The study will be totally blinded to assure confidentiality and anonymity. No information will allow linkage of study results to specific individuals.

ISPARC Active Partnerships

- Department of Health & Welfare
- Idaho State University
- Boise State University
- St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
- St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
- Idaho Supreme Court
- Ada County Sheriff's Department
- Family and District Court System

Results Analysis and Utilization

- Results of the prevalence study will be used by policy makers to substantiate the actual prevalence of substance abuse for families and children in Idaho. Those results will inform policy formation and action to improve prevention, intervention and treatment efforts and create awareness of their availability. (Priority 1)
- Results of the study will establish a database that can be utilized to determine program outcome measures and effective future screening studies. Data collection is also a critical component necessary to accurately measure appropriate implementation, management and outcome of interventions. (Priority 2)
- Public awareness of the pervasiveness of this issue will be an important part of acknowledgment and acquisition of additional funding. (Priority 3)
- Establishing public-private partnerships is essential for sustaining treatment programs and evaluating outcomes for families affected by substance abuse in regions throughout the state. (Priority 4)

- **Project Budget**

The total project cost is \$ 274,000. Funds to launch such a study in one community have been requested from local sources. Assay equipment for the processing of meconium samples has been donated to the ISU College of Pharmacy as in-kind support by the manufacturer. In addition, the in-kind support of office space, office supplies and other office expenses of the Project Coordinator will be contributed by St. Luke's Regional Medical Center. Funds in the amount of **\$260,000** are requested to support the balance of project costs.

If funds are restricted the magnitude of the study could be scaled down to focus on fewer areas at less cost.

Budget Detail:

ISPARC:	
Personnel (Project Coordinator employed by ISPARC at .5 FTE @ \$25/hr + 28% fringe benefits; supervision provided in-kind).....	\$ 33,300
Operating (office expenses provided in-kind):	
Travel to Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Lewiston, Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls @ \$500 average (airfare, hotel, per diem) to each city x 2 trips to each.....	\$6,000
Specimen collection supplies (containers @ \$120/case of 200 x 15 cases).....	\$1,800
Specimen refrigerators dedicated for storage of specimens until shipment (13 nursery units x \$300/2.5 cu. ft. refrig).....	\$3,900
Packing & mailing of specimens (\$35/week x 12 weeks x 11 hospitals).....	\$4,620
Stipends for hospital medical record abstraction (2hrs/week/hospital x 12 weeks @ \$25/hr).....	<u>\$8,470</u>
	\$58,090
Subtotal:	
Subcontracts:	
ISU College of Pharmacy	
Meconium assay kits @ \$20/kit x 3000 samples.....	\$60,000
Confirmatory HPLC/MS supplies @ \$150/positive specimen x 300.....	\$45,000
	\$26,426
	<u>\$26,285</u>
Pharmacy Resident Research Assistant (\$7,657 + fringe).....	\$157,711

Indirect Costs (\$131,426 x 20%).....	
Subtotal:	
Idaho Perinatal Project	
Travel for nurses to managers October meeting (400 miles avg @ \$.34/mi + hotel @ \$70/night x 2 + per diem @\$30/day x2 x 2-3 nurses per hosp).....	\$4,752
Travel to Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Lewiston, Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls @ \$500 average (airfare, hotel, per diem) to each city x 2 trips to each.....	\$6,000
Copying/printing of training materials.....	<u>\$411</u>
Subtotal:	\$11,163
BSU Center for Health Policy	
Research Associate @ .2 FTE + 33% fringe.....	\$14,530
Graduate Assistant 10 hrs/week (.5 stipend & tuition assistance).....	\$6,500
Office expense (telephone, copying, mailing).....	\$500
Travel to Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Lewiston, Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls @ \$500 average (airfare, hotel, per diem) to each city x 2 trips to each.....	\$6,000
Indirect facilities costs @ 20% of \$27,530.....	<u>\$5,506</u>
Subtotal:	\$33,036
Project Total Requested	\$260,000